

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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Two public scoping meetings will be held in San Benito and Fresno counties to discuss the plan. The time and location of the public meetings are:

### **October 9, 2012:**

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Veteran's Memorial Hall

649 San Benito Street

Hollister, CA 95023

### **October 11, 2012:**

Panoche School

5:30–7:30 PM

31441 Panoche Road

Paicines, CA 95043

Comments may be submitted verbally during public scoping workshops, by email, or in writing to the Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023; or e-mail:

BLM\_CA\_Hollister\_RMP@blm.gov

**All comments must be received no later than 30 days after the last public meeting.**

## NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

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Once the official scoping period closes BLM will prepare a Scoping Report, which can be viewed by members of the public to critique draft planning criteria and ensure that we've captured your ideas properly.

Upon release of the Scoping Report, BLM will begin preparing a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment that will describe a range of alternatives, including a preferred alternative, for public land management that are consistent with established planning criteria. The Draft RMP Amendment will be accompanied by an Environmental Assessment (EA) that contains a detailed description of the affected environment and impacts of each alternative.

BLM will announce the release of the Draft RMP Amendment and associated EA in the Federal Register, BLM websites, and local newspapers. A ninety (90) day comment period will follow and BLM will announce another round of public meetings to comment on the Draft RMP Amendment & EA.

### **\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*\***

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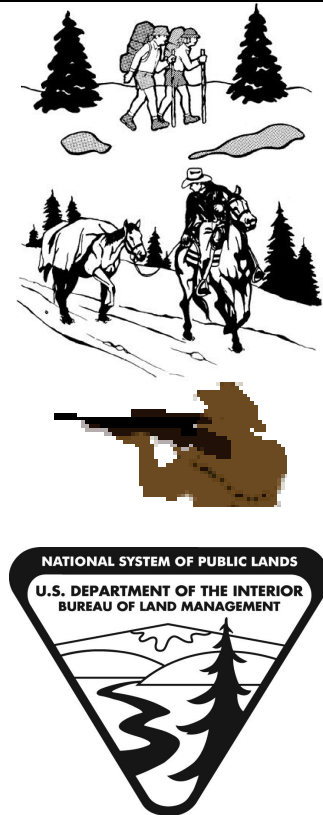
**Commenters may request BLM withhold their name from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act to the extent feasible. Comments from organizations and businesses will be available for review in their entirety.**

## CREATING A VISION FOR YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

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### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S (BLM) SCOPING PROCESS

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Hollister Field Office  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, CA 95023  
General Information:  
(831) 630-5000  
Planning Questions:  
(831) 630-5039

# WHAT'S UP?

The Hollister Field Office is preparing to amend the Hollister Resource Management Plan (2007) to address resource issues on public lands in the San Joaquin Desert Hills.

This planning effort is designed to provide an updated baseline inventory and assessment, a forum for enhanced public collaboration and involvement, and comprehensive analysis and decision records on the incorporated public lands. The updated RMP will address management of all public lands in the Panoche-Coalinga Area of Critical Environmental Concern, as well as newly acquired public lands in the western San Joaquin Valley.

## WHY ANOTHER BLM PLAN?

The Hollister RMP for the Southern Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast of California was approved in 2007 and calls for detailed management plans for ACEC's to address social, political, & environmental changes that affect resource conditions and influence use of public lands.

Therefore, the RMP Amendment will identify site-specific projects and implementation strategies to address complex natural and cultural resources management issues on public lands in the region and incorporate relevant new information and program guidance or policies developed since 2007.

## GETTING TO KNOW NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires BLM to prepare environmental review documents to analyze the impacts of agency actions on the human environment and promote public involvement in planning activities.

NEPA also requires BLM to consider a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the proposed actions, and invite the public to identify issues and concerns related to each alternative in order to inform agency officials about the potential effects of BLM land use decisions.

## BLM LAND USE PLANNING

The Federal Land Policy & Management Act of 1976 requires BLM to prepare Resource Management Plans (RMP), which provide overall direction for activities on public lands.

The normal life span of an RMP may be 10-15 years, at which time the BLM must conduct periodic reviews and revise outdated RMP's to stay current with new legislation and trends in social and environmental conditions.

## THE SCOPING PROCESS

When developing a RMP Amendment, BLM first invites the general public to participate in the "scoping process" to establish a vision for the public lands over the next 10-15 years.

Scoping allows BLM to present valuable information to the public on the status of public lands and the laws that guide natural resource management policies, such as the Endangered Species Act, the Historic Preservation Act, and many others. The scoping process also helps the BLM assess the needs of communities in relation to the natural, cultural, and the social and economic values of public lands.

The public scoping period started on September 18, 2012 with an announcement in the [Federal Register](#). During the scoping period, BLM will be seeking public input on preliminary issues and planning criteria for the RMP Amendment that are outlined in this brochure.

Written public comments on issues and planning criteria may be submitted by any of the following methods:

**Mail:** Hollister Field Office,  
20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023  
**E-mail:**  
[BLM\\_CA\\_Hollister\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_Hollister_RMP@blm.gov)  
**Fax:** (831) 630-5055

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Sky Murphy, telephone: (831) 630-5039, email: [BLM\\_CA\\_Hollister\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_Hollister_RMP@blm.gov), or visit the BLM website: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/hollister>